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Living the Life®

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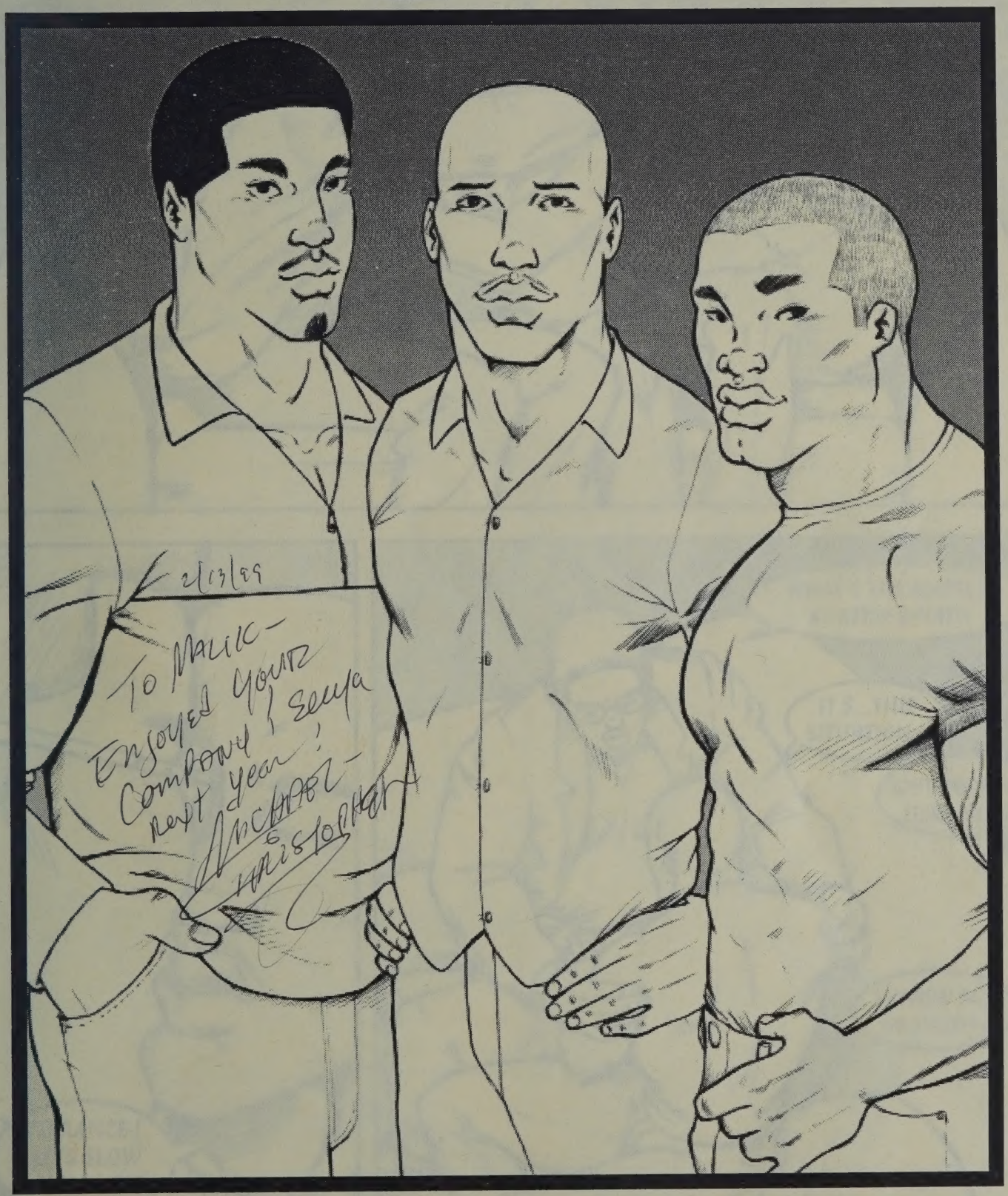

Living the Life®

ART AND STORY BY MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER

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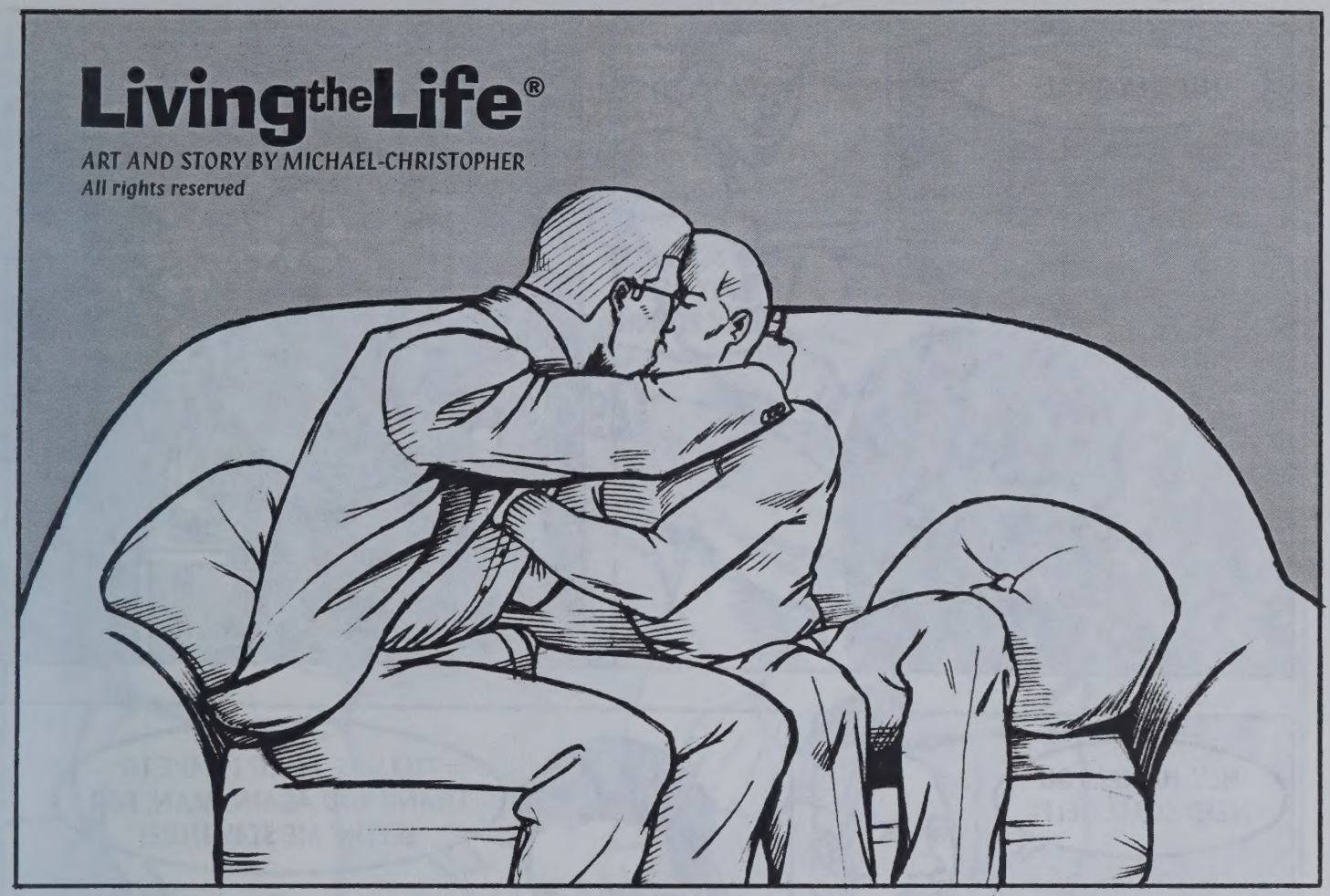
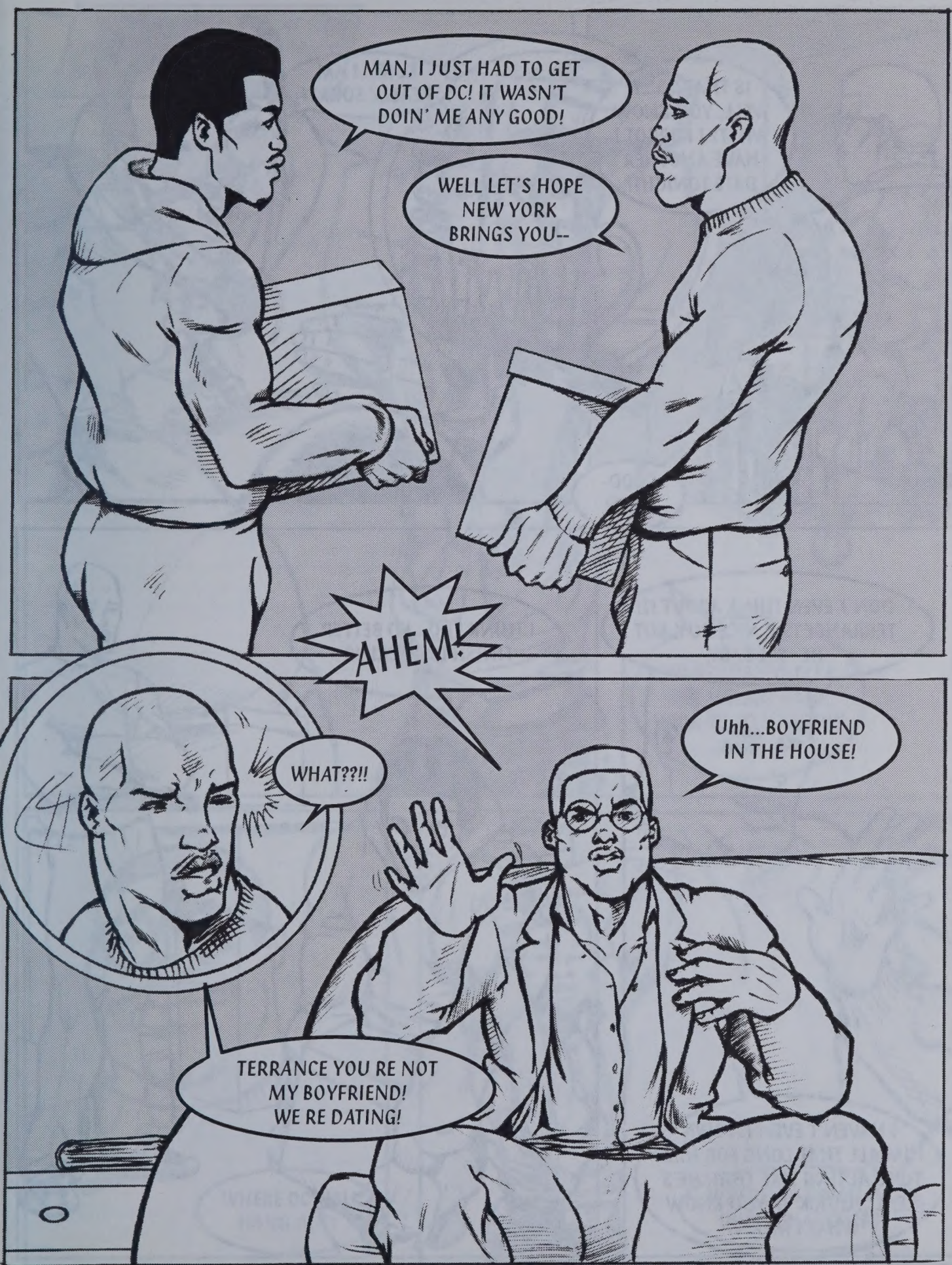


OH! HEY YA'LL...
HEY, HANK! YOU NEED SOME HELP?
but...?!
THANKS, KURT! I HAVE TO THANK YOU AGAIN, MAN, FOR LETTIN' ME STAY HERE!
SURE MAN! ANY FRIEND OF ANDRE S IS A FRIEND OF MINE!


MAN, I JUST HAD TO GET OUT OF DC! IT WASN'T DOIN' ME ANY GOOD!
WELL LET'S HOPE NEW YORK BRINGS YOU--
AHEM!
WHAT??!!
Uhh...BOYFRIEND IN THE HOUSE!
TERRANCE YOU RE NOT MY BOYFRIEND! WE RE DATING!

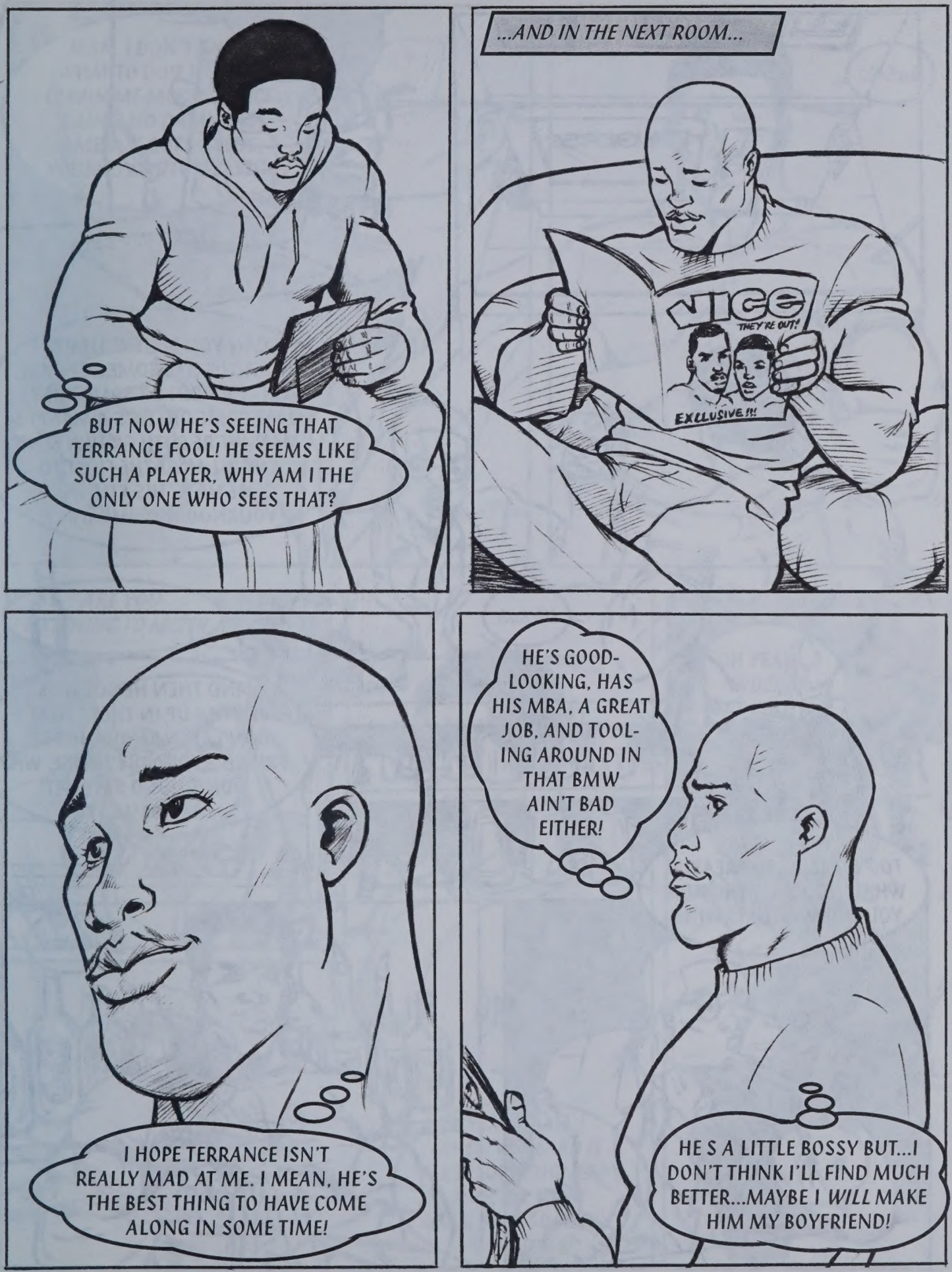
KURT...I AM REALLY SORRY!
IS THAT SO...? WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT? I FORGOT I HAVE ANOTHER DATE TONIGHT!
SLAM!
GOOD-NITE!!
I THINK I DO...I'D BETTER FINISH UNPACKING
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT! TERRANCE IS A NICE GUY, BUT HE IS A BABY.
I HAVEN'T EVEN KNOWN HIM ALL THAT LONG FOR HIM TO BE ACTING LIKE THAT! HE'S REAL... QUICK IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

ELSEWHERE, ANDRE IS AT THE GYM WORKING AT HIS JOB AS PERSONAL TRAINER...
NOW I WANT YOU TO TAKE THE WEIGHT OVER YOUR HEAD LIKE THIS AND...
PARDON ME?
WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?
WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT? WHAT CLUBS?

I DON'T GO OUT MUCH.
Oh...?
I SAW YA OUT AT THE HIDEAWAY! DON'T WORRY I WONT TELL!
BIP!
I'M NOT AT ALL WORRIED ABOUT THAT!
AS I WAS SAYING...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER THE SESSION?
YOU WANNA GET A DRINK? SEE A MOVIE?
huh?
LOOK, THIS SESSION IS OVER...

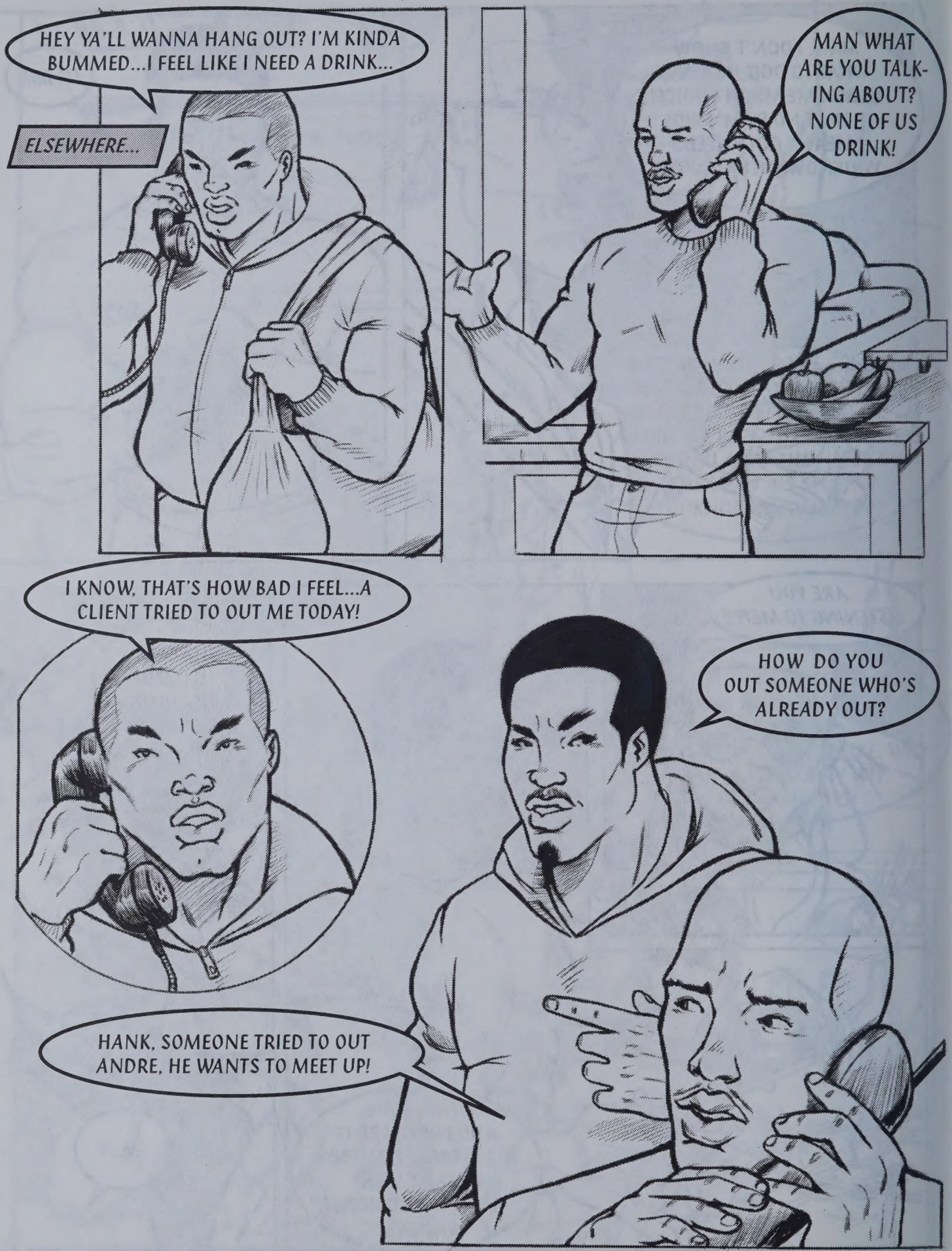
...NOW!
BANG!
LOOK, AT THAT ASS...!
IN THE EMPLOYEE LOCKER ROOM...
BANG!
ANDRE! YOU OK?
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT...THIS MALE CLIENT JUST CAME ON TO ME! I WALKED OUT OF THE SESSION!
JIM'S GYM

AW MAN, THAT'S MESSED UP! YOU NEED TO GO BACK OUT THERE!
JIM'S GYM
MAN, I-I CANT...
IN HANK S ROOM...
MAN, KURTIS IS REALLY THE KIND OF BROTHER THAT I THINK I COULD GET WITH! HE'S INTELLIGENT AND CUTE AS HELL! EVER SINCE HE AND ANDRE CAME DOWN TO DC PRIDE HE'S BEEN ON MY MIND! WE HAD A REAL GOOD TIME THAT YEAR! I COULDN'T DEAL WITH THE DISTANCE AND WAS DATING SOMEONE THEN...I GUESS THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T PURSUE...BUT NOW WE RE LIVING IN THE SAME PLACE -NOW IS THAT FATE OR WHAT?


BUT NOW HE'S SEEING THAT TERRANCE FOOL! HE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A PLAYER, WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO SEES THAT?
...AND IN THE NEXT ROOM...
VICE
THEY'RE OUT!
EXCLUSIVE!!!
I HOPE TERRANCE ISN'T REALLY MAD AT ME. I MEAN, HE'S THE BEST THING TO HAVE COME ALONG IN SOME TIME!
HE'S GOOD-LOOKING, HAS HIS MBA, A GREAT JOB, AND TOOLING AROUND IN THAT BMW AIN'T BAD EITHER!
HE S A LITTLE BOSSY BUT...I DON'T THINK I'LL FIND MUCH BETTER...MAYBE I *WILL* MAKE HIM MY BOYFRIEND!

BANGERS?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? HE'S AC'IN LIKE SOME GOT'DAM VESTAL VIRGIN OR SOMETHIN! I MEAN, COME ON! HE'S A MAN! I'M A MAN-WE'RE BOTH GROWN, AND I *KNOW* I AIN'T THE FIRST TO BE UP IN HIS STUFF, YOUKNOWHUTUMSAYIN'?
Uh huh.
AND THEN HE GOT THIS BRUTHA UP IN THERE THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW—HIS BES' FRIEND'S FRIEND! I'M LIKE, WHY DON'T HE GO STAY WIT' HIS HOMEBOY?!
HIS CRIB IS TOO SMALL... SO FREAKIN WHAT? YOU'S MY NIGGUH! YOUKNOWHUTUMSAYIN'?
Uh huh.
BANGERS

MAN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!? HE AIN'T LEAVIN ME MUCH CHOICE! I AIN'T NO DAMN KID! I MEAN,I GOTS NEEDS, YOUKNOWHUTUMSAYIN'?
Uh huh.
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME??!!
YEAH, MAN, AND I VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE...HOMEBOY DOESN T WANT YOU...FIND SOMEONE WHO DOES!
OH YEAH...? WUZZUP WIT CHU, BIG MAN?!
er...!?


HEY YA'LL WANNA HANG OUT? I'M KINDA BUMMED...I FEEL LIKE I NEED A DRINK...
ELSEWHERE...
MAN WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NONE OF US DRINK!
I KNOW, THAT'S HOW BAD I FEEL...A CLIENT TRIED TO OUT ME TODAY!
HOW DO YOU OUT SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY OUT?
HANK, SOMEONE TRIED TO OUT ANDRE, HE WANTS TO MEET UP!

BACK AT THE BAR...
!
IF YOU PLAN ON STEPPIN TO PRETTY BOY YOU D BETTER GO COMB YOUR HAIR FIRST!
VERY FUNNY, BEER JOCKEY! MAN, I LL SHOW YOU WHO S THE MACK OF ALL MACKS!
...EXCUSE ME...

LATER, DOWNTOWN...
SO, DRE, YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KICK HIS BIG BEHIND?
IT WAS ALL I COULD DO NOT TO, HANK, THAT'S WHY I LEFT!
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, ANDRE
THIS ISN T THE FIRST CLIENT I VE HAD TO DROP! THESE GUYS HIRE ME FOR THEIR SEXUAL FANTASIES, NOT TO IMPROVE THEIR BODIES!
HEY-YOU NEED TO GET WITH THAT! YOU LL BE RICH!
HANK!!!
I-I WAS JUST KIDDIN'!

BANGERS
HERE WE ARE...
OKAY...GO ON IN DRE!
AGE BEFORE BODY...KURTIS!
I SAY THE NEW GUY GOES FIRST
READY?
Uh huh!

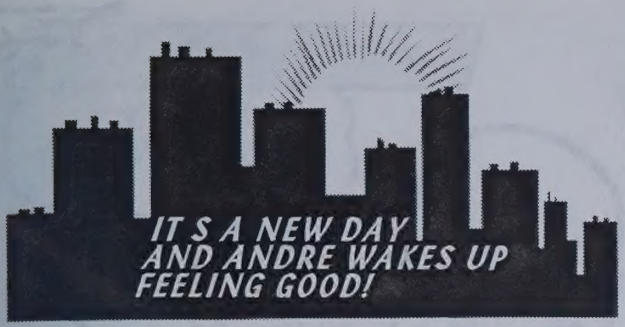
HEY!! WHAT ARE YA LL DOIN' ?
I DON T WANNA GO IN THERE FIRST!
I M FRESH MEAT!
BASH
s-sorry...!?

WATCH YOURSELF, GOODLOOKIN!
UH...AIIGHT...!
I TOLD THEM I WAS GONNA GET HIT ON!
HOLD UP!
TELL ME I M NOT SEEIN WHAT I THINK I M SEEIN!
damn.
HAHA HA HAHA HA

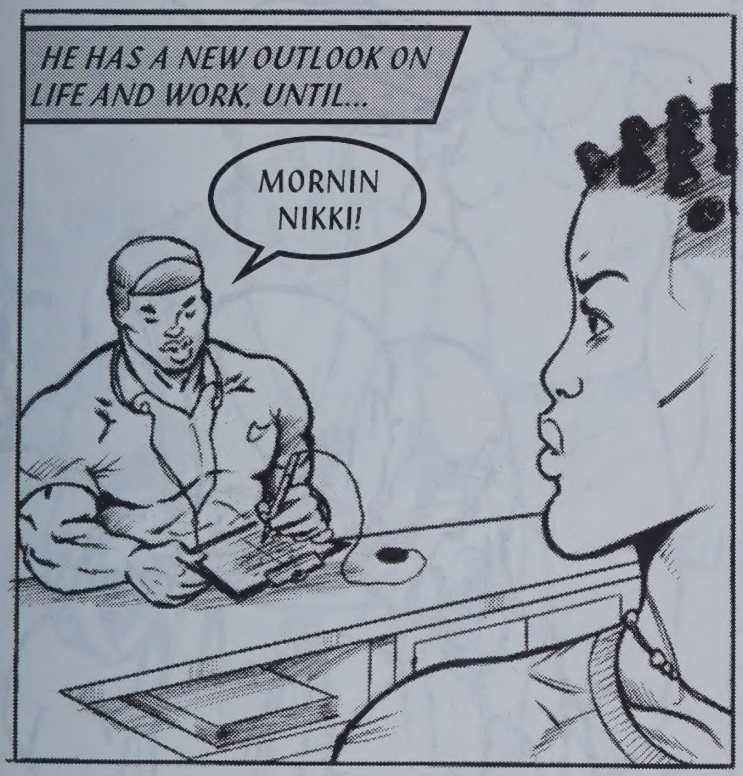
IT S WAC IN THERE- LET S GO!!
HM...LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE!
OR SOMEONE!
but...
MUST BE THAT EX HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT!
INSIDE...
no...
KURT, I TRIED TO WARN YOU...BUT IT S BEST YOU FOUND OUT...NO MATTER WHAT, I M HERE FOR YA, MAN!
THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT BUT I THINK I CAN HANDLE BEING IN THE SAME ROOM WITH TERRANCE!
HE S GONE...!

TERRANCE, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT... TODAY.
DRE! WHEN I WAS IN HERE BEFORE TERRANCE WAS ALL ON THIS OTHER GUY!
whut...?
DAMN! THERE HE IS!
WHO S YOUR FRIEND, TERRY?
HIM? OH HE S JUST SOMEONE I USED TO DATE!
UH OH...SOMETHIN JUST WENT DOWN...
POOR GUY!

WE GOTTA GO!
damn.
TAKE CARE OF MY BUDDY, HANK.
I D LOVE TO, DRE...BUT KURT IS WAY TOO VULNERABLE FOR ME TO MOVE IN ON NOW...I WISH I COULD JUST PUT MY ARMS AROUND HIM... I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THAT *TERRANCE!*

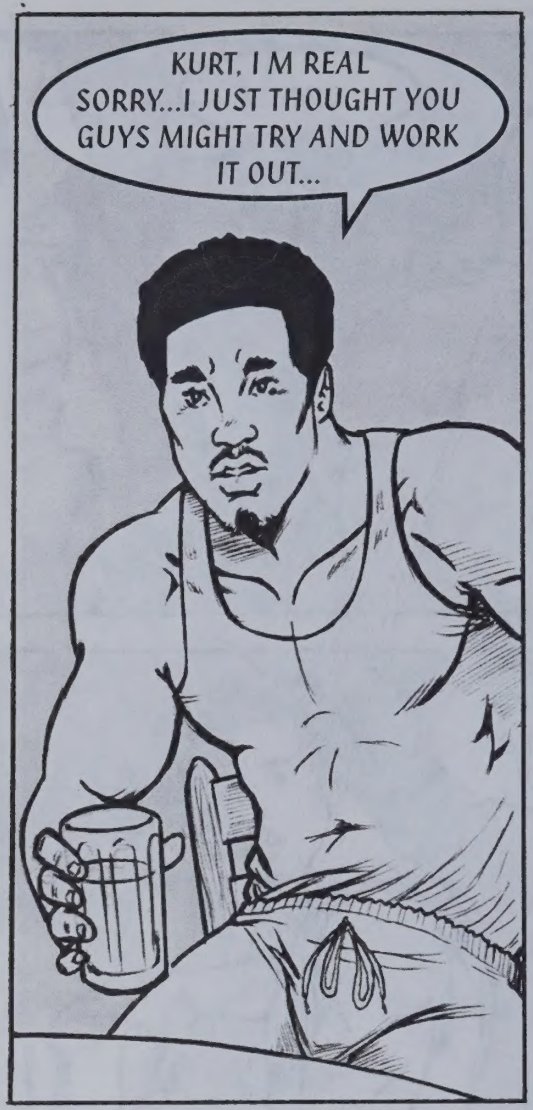


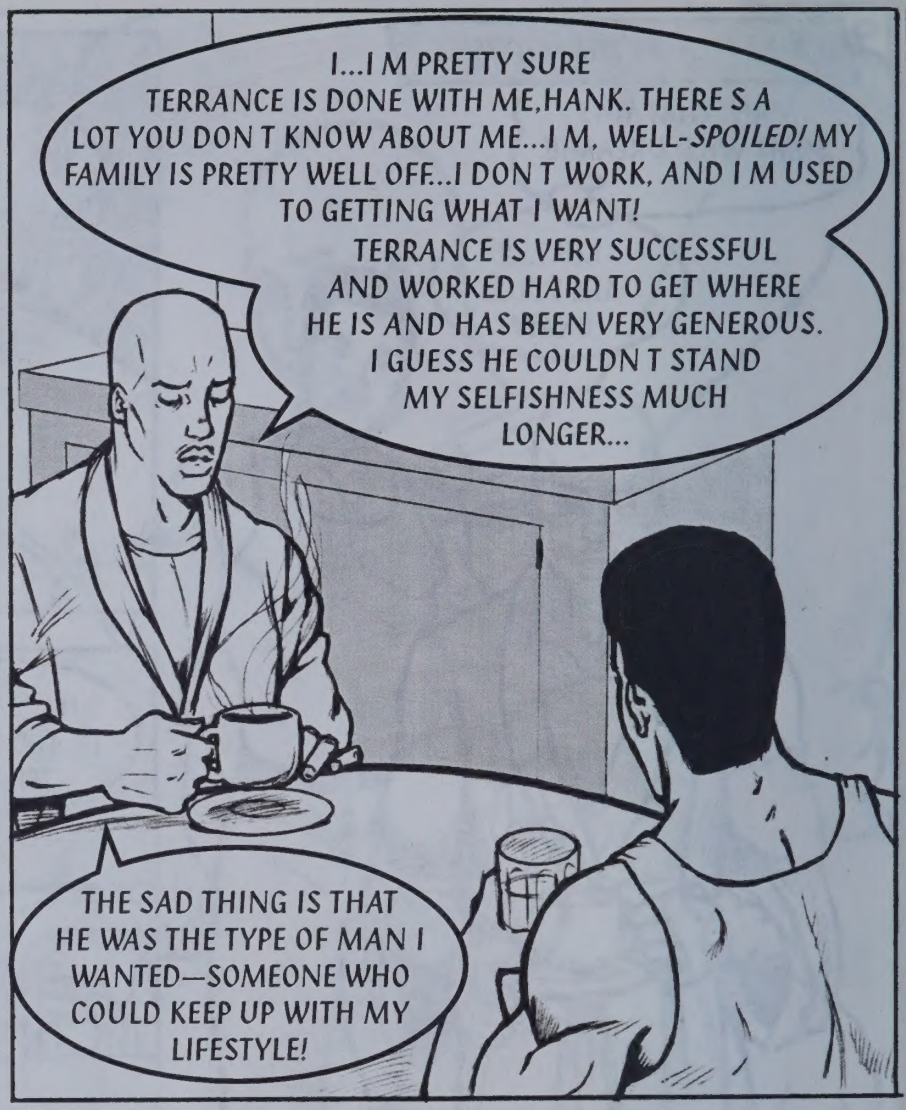
HE DECIDES NOT TO LET THE ACTIONS OF ONE SMALL-MINDED HUMAN BEING GET HIM DOWN!

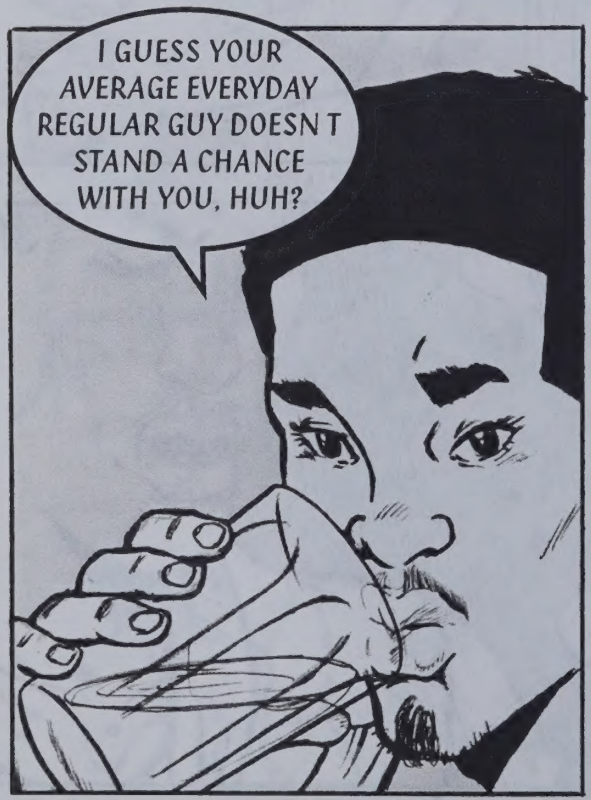


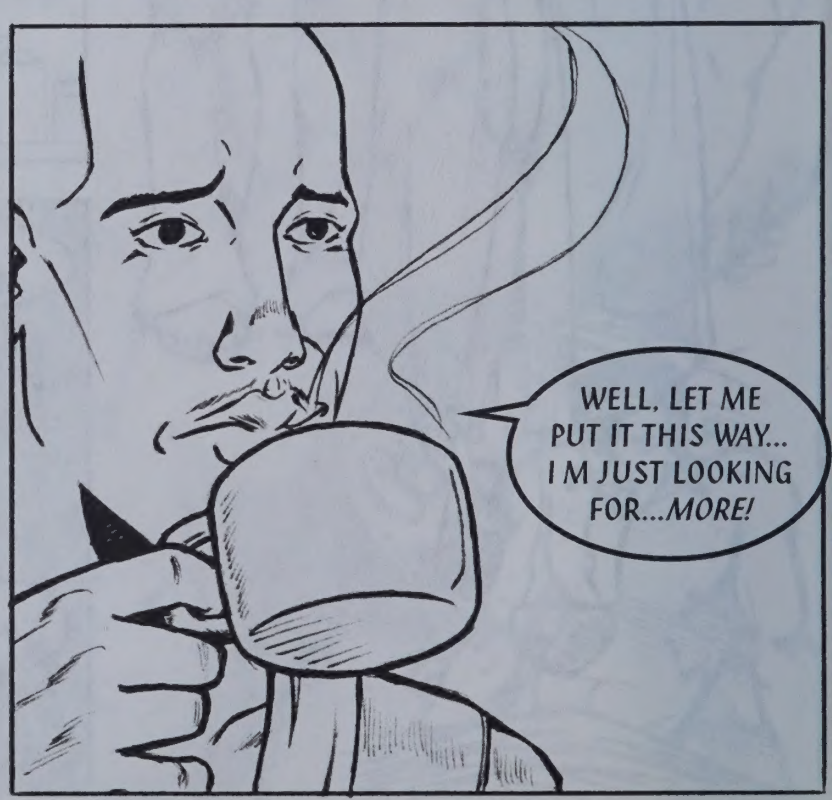
ELSEWHERE...
COUGH

A BIT LATER, IN THE KITCHEN...
MAN, THAT WAS SOME WILD DREAM!!!
KURT...? ARE YOU... OKAY?
KURT...?
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM TER--?!
HANK PLEASE!!
no...

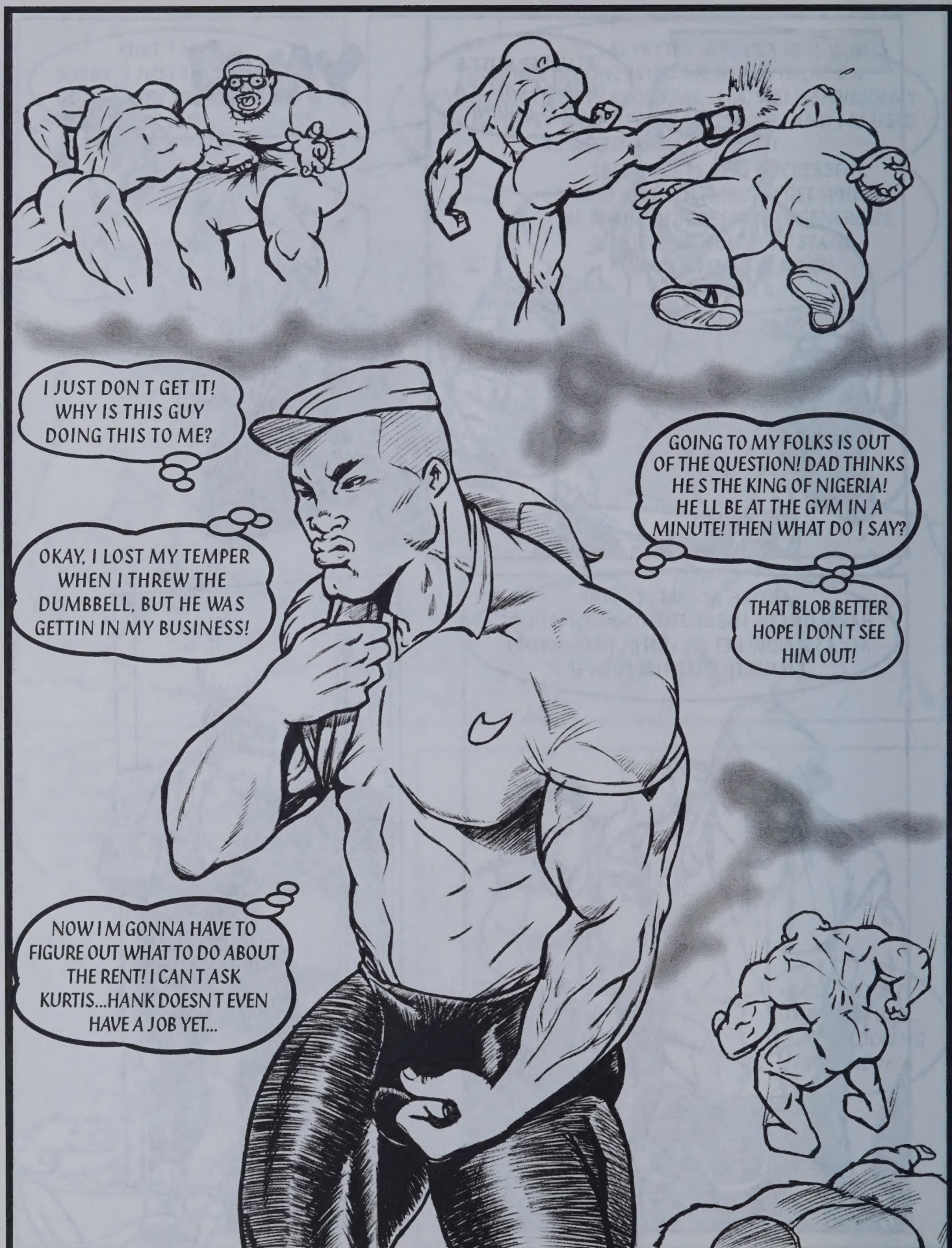

KURT, I M REAL SORRY...I JUST THOUGHT YOU GUYS MIGHT TRY AND WORK IT OUT...

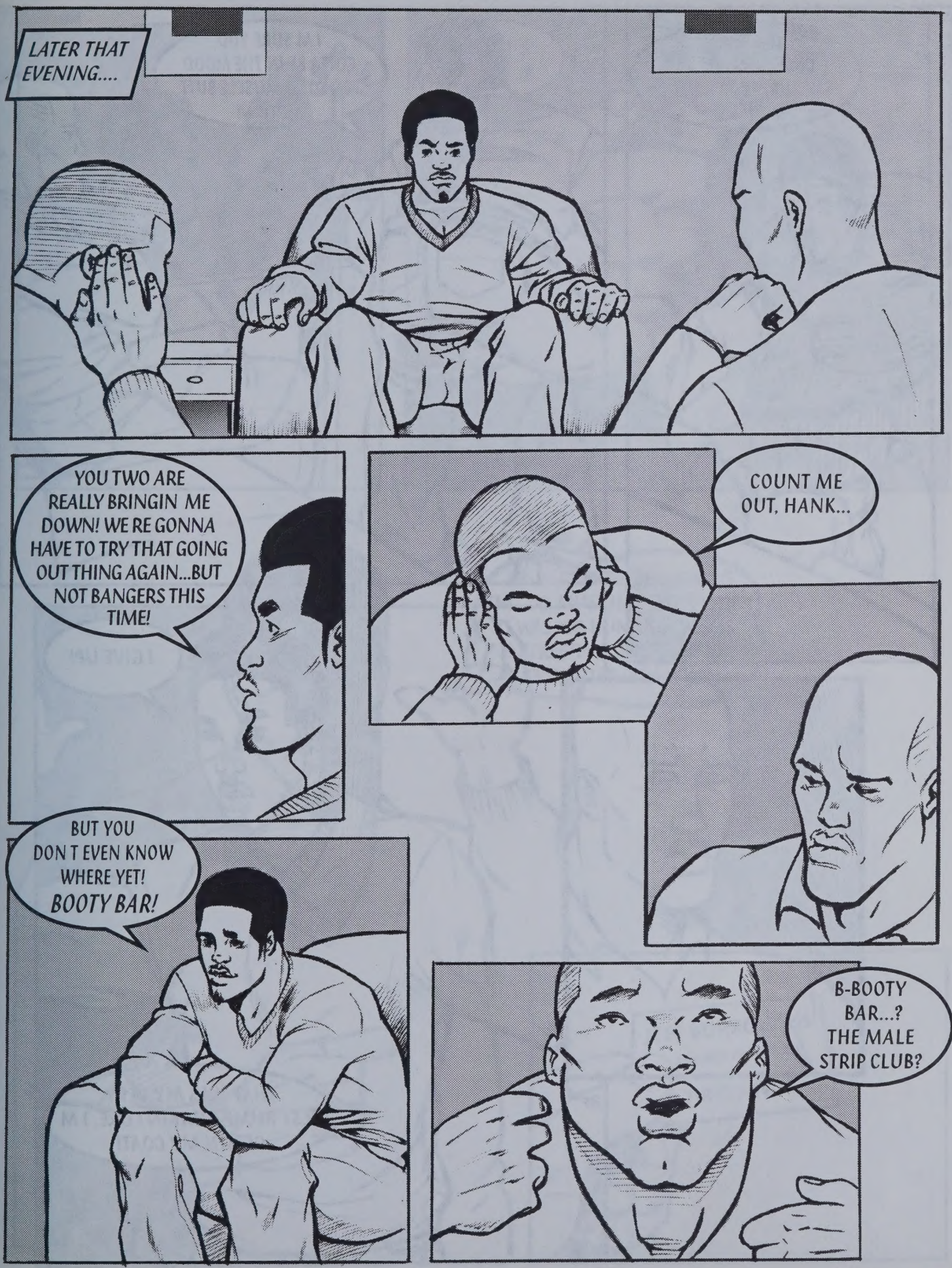

I...I M PRETTY SURE TERRANCE IS DONE WITH ME,HANK. THERE S A LOT YOU DON T KNOW ABOUT ME...I M, WELL-*SPOILED!* MY FAMILY IS PRETTY WELL OFF...I DON T WORK, AND I M USED TO GETTING WHAT I WANT!
TERRANCE IS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND WORKED HARD TO GET WHERE HE IS AND HAS BEEN VERY GENEROUS. I GUESS HE COULDN T STAND MY SELFISHNESS MUCH LONGER...
THE SAD THING IS THAT HE WAS THE TYPE OF MAN I WANTED—SOMEONE WHO COULD KEEP UP WITH MY LIFESTYLE!


I GUESS YOUR AVERAGE EVERYDAY REGULAR GUY DOESN T STAND A CHANCE WITH YOU, HUH?


WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY... I M JUST LOOKING FOR...*MORE!*

BACK AT THE GYM...
BLUBBER BUTT S GONNA CATCH A BEAT-DOWN!
YANK
ANDRE, I CAN T LET YOU HARM ONE OF THE CUSTOMERS—THAT LL BE MY ASS! NOW GET ON OUTTA HERE BEFORE I HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!


I JUST DON T GET IT! WHY IS THIS GUY DOING THIS TO ME?
OKAY, I LOST MY TEMPER WHEN I THREW THE DUMBBELL, BUT HE WAS GETTIN IN MY BUSINESS!
NOW I M GONNA HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE RENT! I CAN T ASK KURTIS...HANK DOESN T EVEN HAVE A JOB YET...
GOING TO MY FOLKS IS OUT OF THE QUESTION! DAD THINKS HE S THE KING OF NIGERIA! HE LL BE AT THE GYM IN A MINUTE! THEN WHAT DO I SAY?
THAT BLOB BETTER HOPE I DON T SEE HIM OUT!

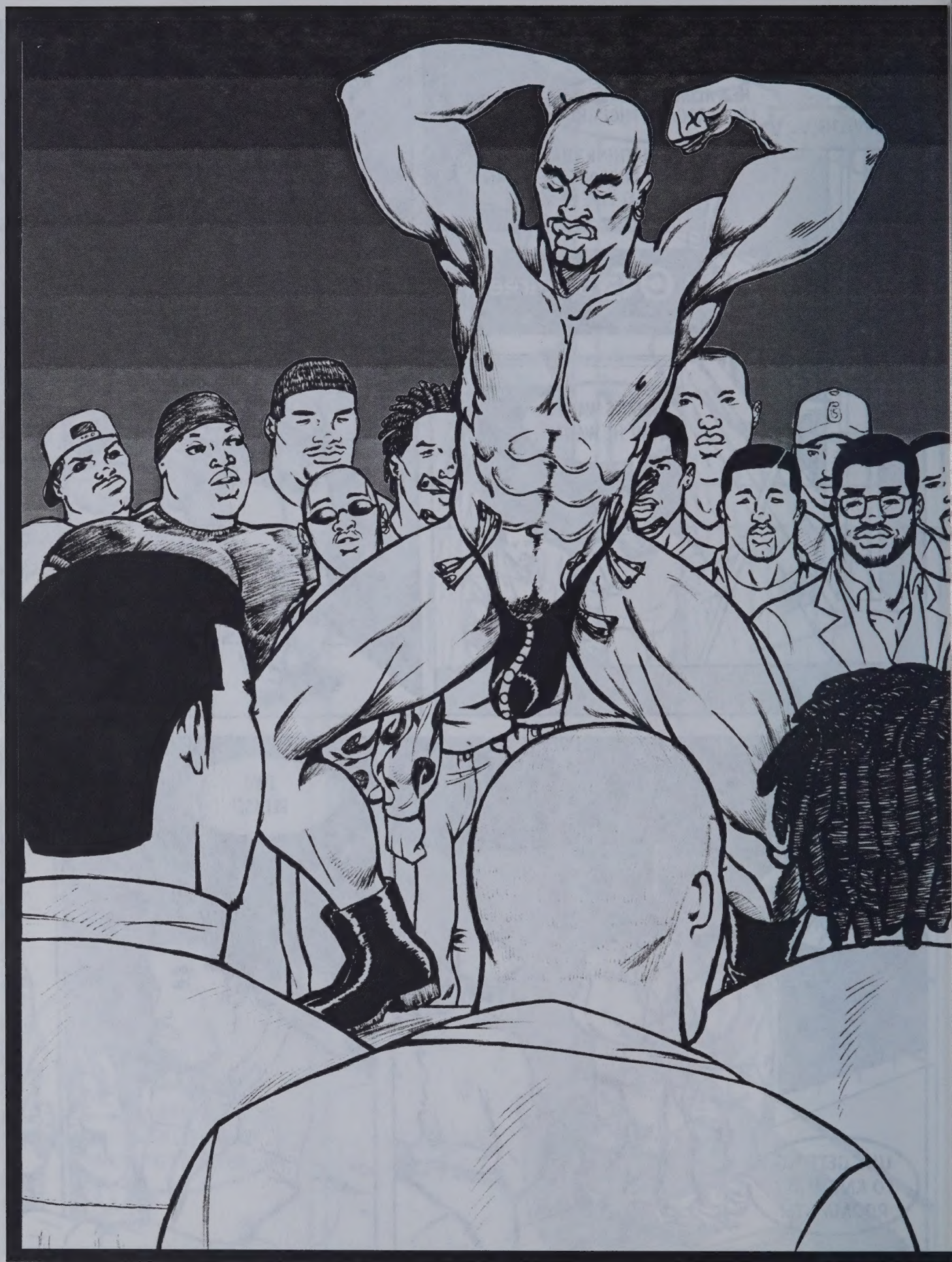

LATER THAT EVENING....
YOU TWO ARE REALLY BRINGIN ME DOWN! WE RE GONNA HAVE TO TRY THAT GOING OUT THING AGAIN...BUT NOT BANGERS THIS TIME!
COUNT ME OUT, HANK...
BUT YOU DON T EVEN KNOW WHERE YET! BOOTY BAR!
B-BOOTY BAR...? THE MALE STRIP CLUB?

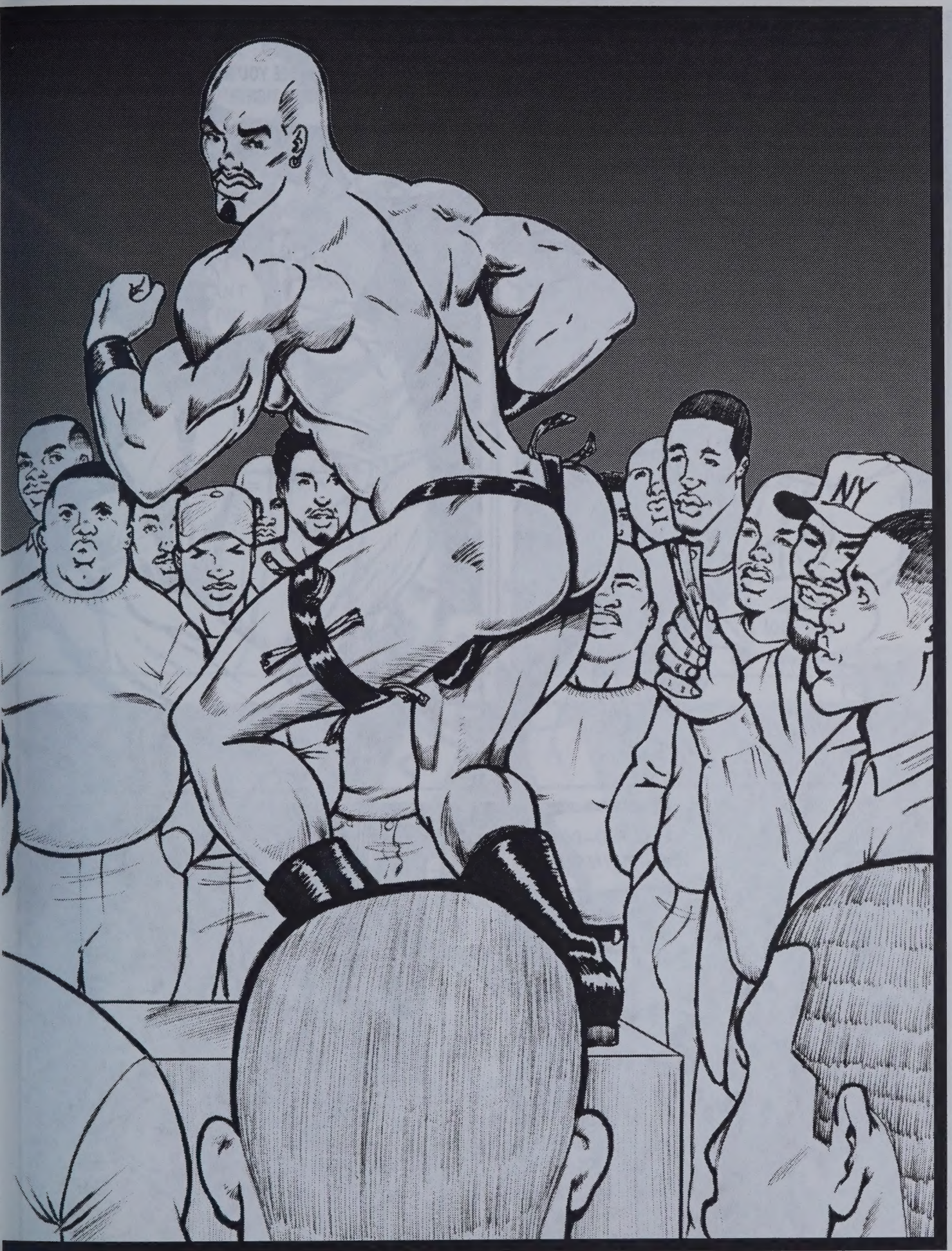
THE ONE AND ONLY! WHADDA YA SAY, KURT? YOU COMIN WITH US?
I M SURE YOU GOTTA BE IN THE MOOD FOR SOME MUSCLE BUTT MOTION!
I GIVE UP!
THAT WAS MY VERY BEST RUMP-SHAKIN ! DRE, I M GETTIN MY COAT!

WHAT S THAT...?
I DON T REMEMBER PICKING THIS UP...MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN I WAS JOB-HUNTING...SEEMS INTERESTING...I M DEFINITELY GIVING THIS GUY A CALL!
JEFF BURROUGHS
RAP/R&B PRODUCER
718-555-2400

KURT, YOU SURE YOU WONT COME?
>grumble<
FINE, I LL LET YOU HAVE YOUR NIGHT OF MISERY, BUT I M YOU RE FRIEND...
...DON T THINK I M GOING TO LET YOU GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER!
in pursuit of...

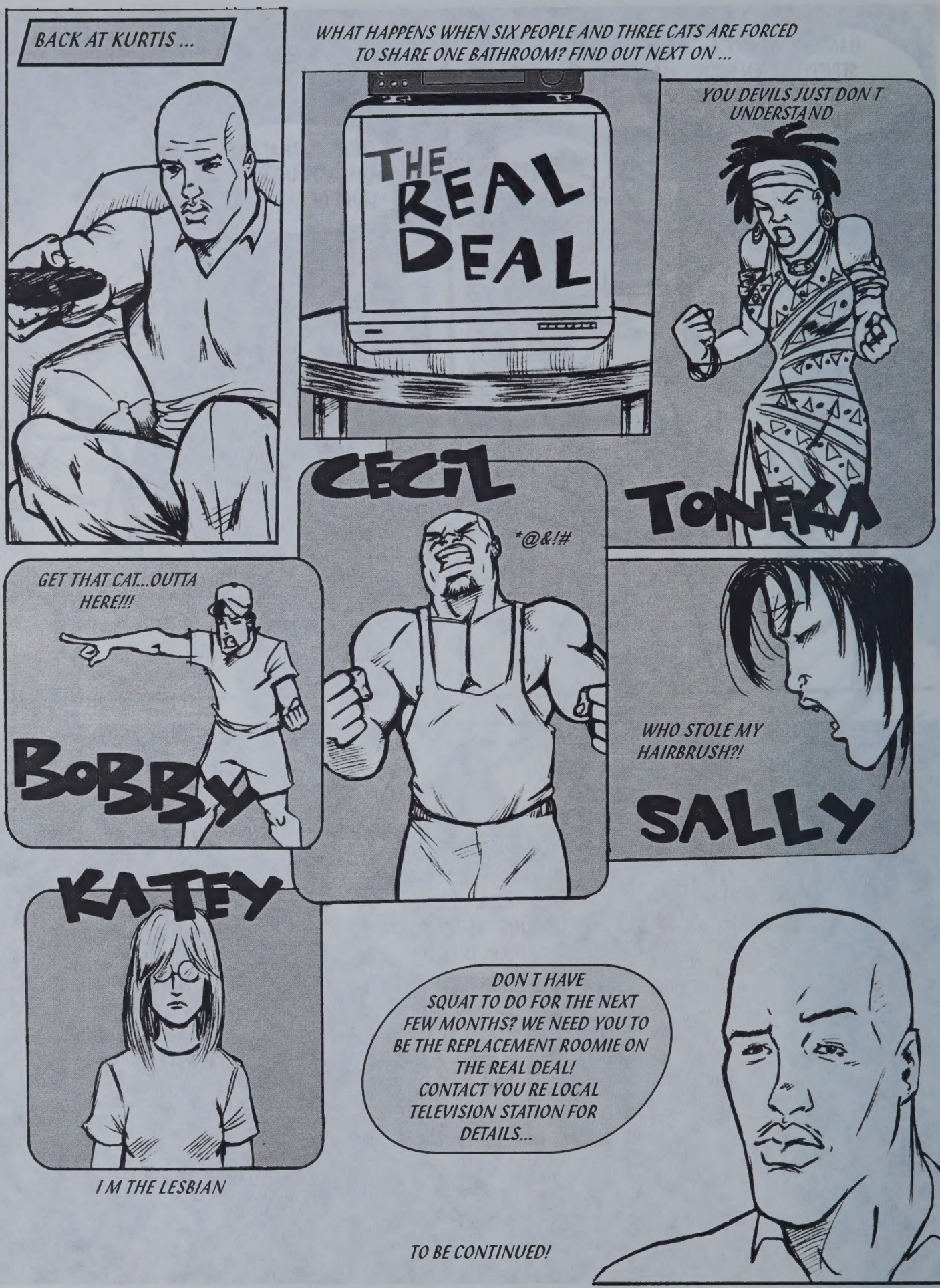
DRE...WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT TERRANCE GUY?
HE S ALRIGHT I GUESS... LIL ARROGANT, THOUGH!
DOWNTOWN...
DO YOU THINK THAT S REALLY WHAT KURT NEEDS? I MEAN THAT TYPE OF GUY?!
C E 50 Street
DOWNTOWN
KURTIS WANTS WHAT HE WANTS...
BUT IT S NOT LIKE A *PHYSICAL* THING—LIKE NOT BEING ATTRACTED TO... BALD, BLUE-EYED MEN!
SURE IT IS! KURTIS IS *ALLERGIC* TO MEN WITH NO MONEY!
Booty Bar
WHY ALL THE KURTIS QUESTIONS?!
UH...GETTING TO KNOW MY ROOMMATE!
TWO PLEASE!




NY

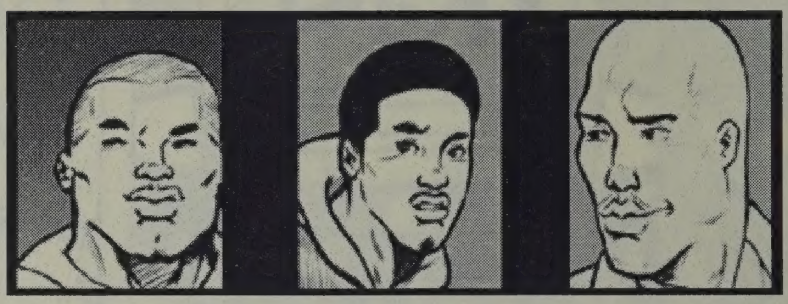
OOP!!!
ANDRE! SUP BOO!
PAP!
I M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU IN HERE! I SEE YOU RE KEEPIN THAT BODY TIGHT!
y-you, too!
THANKS, BOO—DON T GO NOWHERE, I M ON NEXT!
AND I EXPECT TO FEEL YOUR HANDS IN MY G-STRING... WITH A DOLLAR, OF COURSE!
I HAVE ABOUT, ooh, 87 SNAPPY COMMENTS RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
WE-WE USED TO DATE!
MAKE THAT 127!

HANK, HE WASN T A STRIPPER WHEN WE WERE DATING EACH OTHER... I DON T THINK...?
WE ONLY WENT OUT A COUPLE OF TIMES...I CAN T REMEMBER WHAT HE DID FOR A LIVING!
WELL IN THAT CASE YOU TWO OUGHT TO SEE MORE OF EACH OTHER!
I THINK I VE SEEN JUST ABOUT ALL THERE IS TO SEE!


BACK AT KURTIS ...
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SIX PEOPLE AND THREE CATS ARE FORCED TO SHARE ONE BATHROOM? FIND OUT NEXT ON ...
THE REAL DEAL
YOU DEVILS JUST DON T UNDERSTAND
TONEKA
CECIL
*@&!#
GET THAT CAT...OUTTA HERE!!!
BOBBY
WHO STOLE MY HAIRBRUSH?!
SALLY
KATEY
I M THE LESBIAN
DON T HAVE SQUAT TO DO FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS? WE NEED YOU TO BE THE REPLACEMENT ROOMIE ON THE REAL DEAL! CONTACT YOU RE LOCAL TELEVISION STATION FOR DETAILS...
TO BE CONTINUED!

WHAT WILL ANDRE DO FOR WORK?
WILL HANK CALL THE NUMBER ON THE CARD?
WHAT WILL KURTIS DO NOW?

FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE!



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This project is dedicated to the loving memory of
DANNIE LEONARD COPELAND
Someone who saw things in me,
someone who was there for me, someone who loved me.
I m still loving you baby, we did it!

Very special thanks to BELASCO!

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